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**Amendments to the Specification**

Please make the following amendments to the specification. Changes relative to the immediate prior version are shown using strikethrough to identify deleted material and underlining to identify added material.

On page 1, after the title, please insert the following section heading and paragraph beginning at line 1:

**-- RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/US02/32633, filed October 10, 2002, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/336,612, filed December 4, 2001. --

On page 2, please replace the first section heading (line 6) with the following amended section heading:

**-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING DRAWINGS --**

On page 2, please insert the following new paragraph beginning at line 9 immediately above the section heading entitled "DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING":

-- FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of an extension bar that incorporates a second presently preferred embodiment of the present invention. --

On page 2, please replace the second section heading (line 9) with the following amended section heading:

**-- DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ~~DRAWING~~ --**

Please replace the fourth full paragraph on page 3 (lines 26-30) with the following amended paragraph:

-- Though the actuating member is shown as a collar 34 that slides along the longitudinal axis ~~40~~ L, an alternate embodiment of the actuating member may be formed as a slide that does not encircle the drive stud 10. The ring 44 may be considered as a

part of the actuator, and the sliding surface 46 may be formed as an integral part of the collar 34 if desired. —

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 4 (lines 10-25) with the following amended paragraph:

— An engaging spring 48 such as the illustrated coil spring biases the ring 44 and the collar 34 to the left as shown in FIG. 1. Resilient forces supplied by the engaging spring 48 tend to push the pin 24 to the engaging position shown in FIG. 1. The engaging spring 48 has a first end 60 that bears directly on the ring 44 and a second end 62. The second end 62 bears directly on a stop ring 63, and the stop ring 63 in turn bears directly on a shoulder 64. The shoulder 64 is a transition between a radially outer surface 66 and a radially inner surface 68. In this example, the spring 48 extends farther than the radially outer surface 66 radially away from the longitudinal axis L. The spring 48 comprises a wire having a wire center 70, and in this example ~~to the~~ wire center 70 extends farther than the radially outer surface 66 radially away from the longitudinal axis L. The spring 48 defines an inner spring diameter and an outer spring diameter adjacent the shoulder 64, and the radially outer surface 66 defines a surface diameter adjacent the spring 48. In this example, the surface diameter is greater than the inner spring diameter and less than the outer spring diameter. —

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 8 (lines 3-10) with the following amended paragraph:

— The illustrated design provides a number of other advantages. Because the diameter of the extension bar E in the region of the spring 48 is only slightly smaller than the diameter of the extension bar on the other side of the shoulder 64, the strength of the extension bar E is not reduced by a severe reduction in diameter. Furthermore, because both the ring 44 and the stop ring ~~62~~ 63 are symmetrical about their respective mid-planes 72, 74, each can be assembled in either orientation. This facilitates reliable assembly and reduces manufacturing costs. --

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 8 (lines 11-17) with the following amended paragraph:

-- In some alternate embodiments, the locking element may be configured to require a positive action on the part of the operator to retract the locking element as the drive stud is moved into the socket. Certain of these embodiments may require recesses in the sockets as described above to provide all of the functional advantages described. As another alternative, in some cases the stop ring 63 may be deleted, and the end 62 of the spring 48 may bear directly on the shoulder 64, as shown in FIG. 2.

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 8 (lines 18-25) with the following amended paragraph:

-- As used herein, the term "coupled with" is intended broadly to encompass elements that are coupled together directly or indirectly. Thus, a first element is said to be coupled with a second element whether or not there are intervening (unnamed) elements between the first and second elements. Similarly, a first element is said to be positioned between second and third elements whether or not the first element is in direct contact with the second and third elements, and whether or not there are intervening ~~(unnamed)~~ (unnamed) elements. --